



# NATIONAL LABOR RELATIONS BOARD

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20570

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## **BIG THREE AUTO COMPANIES COME TO DEFENSE OF NLRB IN BUDGET DEBATE**

The Big Three U.S. auto companies -- Chrysler, Ford and General Motors -- have thrown their support behind adequate funding for the National Labor Relations Board in the FY 1996 Labor/HHS Appropriations bill.

The viability of the NLRB, which has enforced the nation's primary labor law for six decades, is threatened by the House-passed appropriations bill which would cut the agency's budget by 30 percent and curb its enforcement powers. The Senate Appropriations Committee approved a bill on September 15 that would set the NLRB's FY 1996 budget at the FY 1995 level of \$176,047,000. The measure is expected to be taken up on the Senate floor late next week.

In a letter dated September 14 to Senator Mark O. Hatfield, the Committee Chairman, the auto companies urged the Senate "to include provisions for adequate funding in the 1996 fiscal year budget for the National Labor Relations Board." The letter was signed by Robert E. Moss, Vice President, Government Affairs Division, American Automobile Manufacturers Association (AAMA), which represents the Big Three.

The auto companies said further in the letter:

"While we do not agree with all of the NLRB policies, it is an effective organization with responsibilities important to the maintenance of good labor-management relations. In appropriating funding in the 1996 fiscal year budget for the NLRB, we ask the Senate to consider these responsibilities and avoid any action which would impair the Board's ability to meet them."

NLRB Chairman William B. Gould IV applauded the support for the agency expressed by the auto companies at this critical time during the budget debate:

"This showing of support by the auto industry -- and indeed by many other employers, labor organizations, and labor-management practitioners -- is a vote of confidence in the work of

this great institution. During my Senate confirmation hearing, I promised Members of Congress and the American public that I would enforce the statute with balance and fairness to all parties. This is what I have done ever since I came to office in March of 1994. When all is said and done in this budget debate, I am confident that the Congress will heed the call of responsible employers like the Big Three and provide the NLRB with the funding it needs to insure that U.S. labor relations has the necessary legal framework and procedures to settle labor disputes peacefully within the rule of law."

(A copy of the AAMA letter is attached.)

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